

The Duties of a Christian Citizen

*A Handbook On
Christian Citizenship*

Pastor Dan Gayman

FOREWORD

Stop, think, look, and listen! If you live in the United States of America or any other Abrahamic nation, this handbook is for you and those with whom you fellowship. Natural born citizens of The Republic of the United States of America enjoy gifts, privileges, and blessings of liberty that no one dares take for granted. We can never assume that we are born with the inherent rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The blessings and privileges that we have long enjoyed as citizens of the Republic of the United States of America diminish daily from our lives as the public policy of government reaches its strong arm to control and police every area of life. Instruction in Christian Citizenship is long overdue in our generation. Time is running out. Let us pray that Godly repentance under the blood of Jesus Christ and a restoration of ourselves under Bible Law will return the years that the palmerworm, caterpillar, locust, and cankerworm have consumed.

Americans living today have taken freedom for granted. Most people assume that America will be here forever, that freedom is something that will always be in tact, and that liberty is a guaranteed reality at birth. As grateful as we may be for the freedom we still enjoy, the reality is that long standing liberties are being swallowed by the ever growing public policy and police state power of the Federal, State, and County governments. There is a direct relationship between the loss of liberty and the righteousness of the population of our country. The more that wickedness abounds, the less freedom there is to enjoy. Politics is the administration of the religious tenets of the people. The morality of the people is always reflected back in the public policy that governs the nation. When the hearts of the people are wicked, the hearts of civil rulers will grow hardened and oppressive. When righteousness prevails among the people, morality and accountability issue forth in government.

Living in a time when wickedness and sin of every kind abound in the hearts of the people and the public policy and police force of the nation reflects that unrighteousness, it becomes urgent that the Christian remnant addresses the issue of citizenship. What are the duties of Christian citizenship in a day of great wickedness? What are some specific steps that Christians can take to assume their rightful responsibility as citizens of The Republic of the United States of America? What kind and quality of citizenship should we be practicing before our children? And what kind of a country will our children inherit? Do we want them to be citizens of

The Republic of the United States of America or of the Legislative Democracy of the United States? All too often people retreat into a psychological state of intimidation and simply retire from the battle. Thousands of good Christian people simply have given up. They do not know what to do. Having convinced themselves that the problem is too great to resolve, they simply retreat and do nothing. This handbook is intended to explore the duties of a Christian citizen and redefine the goals of the Christian remnant in this generation with respect to government. Christian citizenship is vital to the security and well being of our country and the future of our children. Our children deserve to know what they must do to discharge the duties of Christian Citizenship. How can they do this if the parents do not lead the way? Christian citizenship begins in the life of the family, the foundation for all government in both the church and the state. May this Handbook on Christian Citizenship arrest the attention of the pulpit, the pew, and the home altars of this nation. Wherever free men in Jesus Christ gather to renew their salvation, may the duties of Christian Citizenship be held high in the chambers of truth.

A full generation ago, thousands of quaint, primitive one room rural school houses dotted the landscape of America. Within their walls, boys and girls learned reading writing, and arithmetic, plus a whole lot more. It was amid the wood and coal burning stoves and dimly lighted one room buildings that they learned to sing our National Anthem, pledged allegiance to The Republic of the United States of America, prayed for our country's leaders, and memorized Scripture from the Holy Bible. They were taught the duties of a Christian citizen. They were taught to love, honor, and respect the Pilgrims and the Puritans. They were taught that Jesus Christ and the Bible was the foundation of this nation. They learned that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. They memorized and discussed the Ten Commandments. They learned to admire and respect the founding fathers of this country. They were required to memorize and be able to intelligently discuss the first Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, otherwise known as the Bill of Rights. It is imperative to remember that our heritage as American citizens is nothing that can be guaranteed. Every generation of free men has the responsibility to see that the Christian foundations of this nation in Jesus Christ and the Bible remain secure and strong. We must pray that the truth of the Ten Commandments will be quickened and made alive on the tables of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. America was born and baptized in the covenant Law of the Bible. The Ten Commandments were the covenant rock upon

which our Pilgrim and Puritan fathers carved the American nation. Our performance as a covenant people must be examined in this generation. We have broken covenant with our God, and the Ten Commandments lie buried beneath an avalanche of secular humanism. May the hearts and minds of our Anglo, Saxon, Scandinavian, and Germanic sons and daughters be instructed in the covenant Law of our God, for therein lies the future of our freedom and of our country.

Our knowledge of Christian Citizenship is barely alive in this generation. As millions of home schoolers across this land become instructed in the Christian ideals of God and Scripture, let us pray that the duties of Christian citizenship will be added to their curriculum. May all of us, from the pulpits and the pews to the colleges/universities and work places of America rekindle a love of Christian Citizenship. Let us come forth from the dens, caves, and rocks of secular humanism and find our way back to Jesus Christ and the Word, for it is in finding Him and the truth of His Word that we shall establish in our minds and hearts the duties of a Christian citizen. May the pages of this handbook bless all of God's people, especially the children of this generation.

Pastor Dan Gayman

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THE DUAL CITIZENSHIP OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in Tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:8-10).

Like our Father Abraham, the covenant people of Jacob Israel, regardless of their country of residence, enjoy dual citizenship. Firstly they are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. Citizenship in the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ begins with the spiritual rebirth of every carnal Israelite in this world. When we are quickened and made alive in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, confess our sin, become baptized, and are made alive unto the Commandments of Yahweh, living according to His standard, we become a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are numbered with the elect in Jesus Christ, having our names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. This citizenship gives us the lawful right to dwell in the coming Kingdom of God on this earth.

As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven we dwell in the Kingdom of Light, the reign of righteousness, and in the power of Jesus Christ. Since Jesus Christ has all power in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18), He is Lord and King of both the earthly and the heavenly kingdoms. Citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven gives us lawful claim to all the covenant benefits. It is a spiritual status that we enjoy with Jesus Christ and the redeemed of all ages. In the Holy Bible are found all the requirements for the Kingdom of Heaven, including confessing that Jesus Christ is God and a personal belief in Him, confessing sin, and being baptized.

Citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven enjoy the blessing of earthly citizenship in their particular country of residence. Israelites living in America enjoy a special class of citizenship established by those Christian people who explored, settled, and developed our country. We are citizens of the Republic of the United States of America. **A Republic is not to be confused with a Democracy.** Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary of the English Language defines a Republic as “*A commonwealth; a state in which the exercise of the sovereign power is lodged in representatives elected by the people. In modern usage, it differs from a democracy or democratic state, in which the people exercise the powers of sovereignty*

in person." The original Constitutional Republic of the United States of America restricted voting rights to Caucasian males. Webster's 1828 Dictionary of the English Language defines a Democracy as "...a form of government, in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of the people collectively, or in which the people exercise the powers of legislation. Such was the government of Athens."

It is important to review the distinction between a republic and a democracy by examining a U. S. Army Training Manual (TM 2000-25) issued by the U.S. War Department, November 30, 1928. This publication, used to educate American soldiers on the distinction between a republic and a democracy, was withdrawn from circulation and publication by the U.S. Government long ago. However, it contains excellent information for those seeking to understand what good Citizenship is all about. The following information was taken from the 156 page book officially compiled and issued by the U.S. War Department, November 30, 1928, setting forth exact and truthful definitions of a democracy and a republic and explaining the differences between the two. These definitions issued by authority of the U.S. Government should be accepted as authentic in any court of proper jurisdiction.

CITIZENSHIP Training Manual 2000-25, Sects. 118-120 on Democracy: *A government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any other form of "direct" expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic—negating property rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice, and impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy.*

CITIZENSHIP Training Manual 2000-25, Sects. 118-121 on Republic: *Authority is derived through the election by the people of public officials best fitted to represent them. Attitude toward property is respect for laws and individual rights, and a sensible economic procedure. Attitude toward law is the administration of justice in accord with fixed principles and established evidence, with a strict regard to consequences.*

A greater number of citizens and extent of territory may be brought within its compass. Avoids the dangerous extreme of either tyranny or mobocracy. Results in statesmanship, liberty, reason, justice, contentment, and progress. It is the "standard form" of government throughout the world.

A republic is a form of government under a constitution which provides for the election of (1) an executive and (2) a legislative body, who working together in a representative capacity, have all the power of appointment, all power of legislation, all power to raise revenue and appropriate expenditures, and are required to create (3) a judiciary to pass upon the justice and legality of their governmental acts and to recognize (4) certain inherent individual rights. Take away any one or more of those four elements and you are drifting into autocracy. Add one or more to those four elements and you are drifting into democracy. (Atwood)

CITIZENSHIP Training Manual 2000-25, Sect. 121: Superior to all others. Autocracy declares the divine right of kings; its authority can not be questioned; its powers are arbitrarily or unjustly administered.

Democracy is the "direct" rule of the people and has been repeatedly tried without success.

*Our Constitutional fathers, familiar with the strength and weakness of both autocracy and democracy, with fixed principles definitely in mind, defined a representative republican form of government. They "made a very marked distinction between a republic and a democracy *** and said repeatedly and emphatically that they had founded a republic." A.G. 014.33 (4-28-28).*

By Order of the Secretary of War:

Official: Lutz Wahl,
Major General
The Adjutant General

C.P. Summerall,
Major General
Chief of Staff

It may be important to say that a republic, as good as it may be, is not the very best type of government, the best being a theocracy under which God rules by virtue of His Law. The Commandments, Statutes, and Judgments of the Living God as contained in the Holy Bible constitute the Law for a theocratic nation. Under this there is no need of a legislative body to enact laws since Almighty God, the only Lawgiver, has already legislated His Law for the government of His earth. During the Reign of Judges, the Israelites operated under a type of theocracy with Divine Law being the basis for all public policy. A monarchy (kingship) or a republic

(rule of the people through elected representatives) would be made infinitely better if they would govern by the legislated will of Yahweh. One day this glorious theocracy will be established in the earth with Jesus Christ ruling in His own person from the Throne of David. Until that day arrives, Christians have the responsibility of letting the light of Bible Law find its way into the pulpits, university chairs, legislative halls, and courts of every Israelite nation on earth.

Christians living in the Republic of the United States of America are blessed with dual citizenship. As descendants of the 2.5 million Preamble people who established this nation under a Constitutional Republic in 1789, we have been blessed abundantly by Jesus Christ. It is imperative that we remember that our citizenship in the Republic of the United States is a gift and blessing from Jesus Christ. This nation was founded on God's Covenant Law by our Pilgrim and Puritan fathers. These early Christians believed that they descended from Abraham of Bible fame and viewed themselves as children of the Covenant. The Anglo, Saxon, Scandinavian, Germanic, and kindred people living in America today are living out the blessings secured for them by Christian ancestors who were committed to the Covenant Law of Jesus Christ and Scripture.

There is no guarantee that the blessing of liberty will be passed to future generations of Americans. Our liberty is based on our obedience to the Covenant Law (Ten Commandments) of the Bible and our faith in Jesus Christ as the Eternal God and Savior of His people. Compelled performance to the Covenant Law is essential if we are to continue to live with measurable blessings in the United States of America. For the Christian, citizenship in America carries a tremendous weight of responsibility: we can only insure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity by faith in Jesus Christ and living obediently to the Covenant Law (Ten Commandments), written by the power of the Holy Spirit upon the tables of our hearts. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, it is imperative that we translate our spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word into all that is needed to insure a continuation of the Republic of the United States of America. While we plan for our ultimate citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven that is coming to earth (*Matthew 6:10*), let us stand and exercise Christian stewardship in the country of our nativity.

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILED CITIZENSHIP

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matthew 5:13).

Failed citizenship in the Republic of the United States of America is clearly evident in our generation; in fact, we are well into the fourth generation of failed citizenship. Our departure from the Covenant Law of the Bible had its serious beginning about the time of the Civil War (1860-1865) and has continued unabated into the closing years of the 20th century. In the more than one hundred years of departure from the Ten Commandments of the Bible, America has been transformed totally. We have moved from the faith of Christianity to the religion of Secular Humanism. We have exchanged the Ten Commandments for the Ten Planks of the Communist Manifesto. We have legislated God, prayer, and the Bible out of the public schools by Supreme Court decrees. The signs, symbols, and rituals of the Christian faith have been removed from public view by the Judicial branch of Government. We remain but a hollow shell of the former Christian nation we once were.

Other gods and temples now dot the landscape of America. Where Christian churches, shrines, and symbols once stood stand the heathen gods, temples, shrines, and people of alien blood and faith. With the demise of the Ten Commandments and the removal of all the rest of Bible Law from the homes, churches, schools, courtrooms, and legislative assemblies, America now moves forth with an alien law system foreign to God and the Bible. We now legally do that which the Bible proclaims to be absolutely unlawful. We murder unborn children under color of law. We sodomize our sons under color of law. We mix the blood of different races under government protection. We tolerate sexual crimes that the Bible condemns. These and other capital crimes are returning America to the jungle. The glory cloud of God's grace and favor has been lifted from America.

The failure of Christians to exercise good citizenship abounds everywhere in contemporary America. Christians in the main have failed to remain the salt of this nation. We no longer exercise Christian principles to hold back corruption and spoilage. We no longer seek to preserve a place for God and the Bible in America. The salt has lost its savor. Indeed, it remains in the shaker. As a consequence for our failed Christian dominion, God's judgment is upon our land. Christians, in

confirmation of Matthew 5:13, are being cast out and trodden under foot of men.

Christianity is retreating in America. Christians are backing away from the battle line of truth. We are now a congregation singing "Backward Christian Soldiers" instead of moving forward into a war against Secular Humanism. The salt has lost all of its savor. Public policy in the United States is posited against the Christian Faith. Secular Humanism has become the new religion of America. It denies Jesus Christ and any place for His Law Word.

More and more of our national population look to the government for sustenance. Welfare roles are soaring. We use extortion to redistribute the wealth of America. So many millions are living from the largess of those citizens who do work and pay taxes that the system is about to collapse. Men would rather sit and collect welfare than work. We now have hundreds of thousands of families who are third and fourth generation welfare recipients. Government is the largest competitor with free enterprise in America. People actually believe that the government can never run out of money. Growing numbers of people assume that they and their offspring can look to the government to meet all needs in times to come. The welfare state was fully birthed in America, a land where hard work, sweat, thrift, creativity, honesty, and ambition once stood as hallmarks of achievement. Now there resides insolence, slothfulness, drunkenness, and theft. Having cast aside Jesus Christ and the absolutes of His Word, America now rests on the shifting sands of humanism, whose foundations are beginning to tremble and shake.

As Christians retreat from the scene of battle and lose their dedication to God, the Bible, and good citizenship, the sound of oppression can be heard across the land. Millions of people, no longer chained to the absolutes of God and His Word and no longer exercising self-government, are bringing the heavy hand of government down on the populace. Public policy is enforced by growing numbers of civilian armies representing various agencies of government; they police the people with armed might.

Christians are being trodden under the foot of oppressive government. Parents are denied the joy of home birthing their children in many states, while in others they are denied the pleasure and benefits of home schooling. Bible classes and worship services are being zoned out of existence in some communities. The heavy hand of Public policy stands against the Church and all Christians in this generation. The consequences of failed citizenship are upon us. Secular Humanism is on the

march while Christianity is retreating. Most Christians have allowed their church leaders to remove favorite long standing militant hymns from the Church, including "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and just about any song that causes Christians to stand up and exercise dominion in the name of Christ and His Word.

A CALL TO CHRISTIAN DOMINION

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

For the genuine Christian, taking dominion is an act of obedience that goes with salvation. Genesis 1:28 is a call for Adam man to exercise dominion over God's earth: *"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."* The Hebrew root word for the English "dominion" is #7287 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and means to tread down, subjugate, crumble off, to have dominion, prevail against, to reign, or bear rule. Yahweh purposed that Adam man was to take charge of the earth, dress it, and keep it. This idea is expressly found in Genesis 2:15 wherein Adam is told to dress and keep the garden of Eden and is further called to classify and name all the living creatures. This call to dominion was the first agenda of Adam's life and remains so for every Christian.

Every area of man's life is to be governed by God and Scripture: there can be no escape from Him. The Law Word of Yahweh reaches to the ultimate limits of heaven and earth. Christians are called to be the light of the world. Jesus Christ is the source of all light, for He declared: *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"* (John 8:12). The first act of creation was to bring light into the world (Genesis 1:3): *"And Elohim said, Let there be light: and there was light."* The light of Jesus Christ is found in the Holy Scripture, and the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit enables us to find and understand that light. Christians are called to exercise dominion in terms of the light that is found in the Word of God. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth*

understanding unto the simple” (Psa. 119:105,130).

The first step in the life vision of every man is the call to work and exercise dominion. His choice of a mate is critical in this call to dominion because the first call of every woman is to be a help meet to her husband. Thus, dominion is the first call in every marriage. The family is the basic unit of government through which Christian dominion moves forth. The multiplicity of children is the next step in the fulfillment of the Christian dominion of the earth. Man was called to be fruitful, to multiply, and replenish the earth. Scripture commands the multiplication of children, not merely the addition of children. Every man is to leave his father and his mother and cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh (*of the same kind of flesh or race—Genesis 2:24*). The membership of both the church and the state are furnished out of the Christian family.

Multiplying children is central to the dominion of the earth, so families are to have a quiver full of children (Psa. 127:3-5). The call to exercise dominion of the earth demands that Christian men, walking in the light of Jesus Christ and the principles of His Word, work to harness the earth and bring forth industry, commerce, and trade. The cultivation and working of the earth is the foundation for all wealth and the dominion of the earth. The care, cultivation, and proper management of the soil is central to Christian dominion. The basis for all trade, commerce, and industry is found in the resources of God’s earth, so the work ethic becomes vital in Christian dominion. From the beginning, man was charged with the command to work. *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Genesis 3:19).* The Puritan work ethic is central to man’s call to dominion. Every child needs to understand and learn the importance of work. There is no room for slothfulness in God’s earth. Building a life vision includes working, building a strong marriage, and multiplying children.

The acquisition of land, tilling the soil, building houses, and building a free market economy in terms of God and Scripture is central to the vision of Biblical dominion. In our particular time of history, it is imperative that Christian families sharing a mutual heritage of race and faith exercise dominion in the more rural areas of our respective countries. There, among our own folk and faith, we should acquire land, cultivate the soil, build strong Christian marriages, multiply and increase children, and encourage our people to work hard, establish home cottage industry, and manage and cultivate the soil. We need to settle families of like faith and

race on the land. It is urgent that we take dominion of our children by means of home birthing, home schooling, and apprenticing maturing sons in skilled trades and teaching young ladies the skills of homemaking and being the Proverbs 31 woman. We need to buy land without debt and build houses without a suffocating mortgage. While many of these goals seem difficult to achieve given the restrictions of our time, nothing is impossible with Yahweh! And, nothing is unreachable for those who live by faith and apply Bible principles. The call to Christian dominion is perhaps best summarized by the Prophet Jeremiah in his letters to the captive Israelites during the Babylonian captivity. His words of instruction seem especially important for this generation. Can these words be the inspiration for remnant dominion of the earth in a time of great evil? Jeremiah 29:4-7: *“Thus saith Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto Yahweh for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”*

Jeremiah has given a genuine plan for Christian dominion in a time of great political, social, moral, and spiritual upheaval such as we now witness in all Christian Israelite nations of the earth. We are without excuse in moving forth with a vision of dominion in our generation. The Christian Israelites that Jeremiah writes to were captives among an alien people, living amid heathen temples and gods, and being forced in many respects to honor a law system foreign to the Word of God. Carefully note Jeremiah’s call to dominion and let us build a life vision from the Bible. Here is an excellent life vision for every Christian man. Notice carefully the steps that Jeremiah calls us to take:

1) We are to build houses. Jeremiah did not tell us to buy houses. We are to build houses debt free because Scripture does not sanction debt. We must bring together all the necessary spiritual and materials resources to build debt free houses among remnant Christians.

2) We must acquire land. You cannot build houses on property that is not free and clear of debt. Remnant Christians must move

forth and buy land. Wealth measured in land, livestock, silver, and gold was the means by which men held investments in the day of Abraham (*Genesis 13:2*), and it remains the best way to invest in our generation.

3) We are to plant gardens. Here is the call to cultivate, manage, and take care of the soil. We are to grow our own food. Remnant Christians must prepare to produce their own food. We cannot continue to remain dependent upon food that is grown and processed in heathen lands (Mexico, etc.). Gardening involves more than a postage stamp size plot at the rear of the house. We are talking about cultivating and growing food necessary to sustain families, which includes grains, nuts, vegetables, and fruits.

4) Take ye wives. This is a call to exercise the estate of Holy Matrimony, a sacrament central to Christian dominion. One who takes a wife is entering a covenant of marriage. God's original design for marriage is one man and one woman of the same race and faith (*Gen. 2:24, I Cor. 7:2, & I Tim. 3:2*). Monogamy in marriage remains God's plan for His people. The Christian marriage is central to Christian dominion, and to insure them, we must demand moral purity of the man and the woman before marriage and in the state of marriage. There must be absolute abstinence before marriage and unbreakable fidelity to the covenant in the state of marriage.

5) Bear sons and daughters that ye may be increased and not diminished. Multiplying children is central to Christian dominion. Remnant Christians cannot exercise dominion of the earth by taking up the standards of the world. Caucasian people living by the lies of Satan nearly have ceased bearing children. They have reached zero population growth with an average of 1.8 children per family unit. Scripture calls for the quiver to be full. If we want to be blessed of God and meet the enemy at the gate, we had better multiply children. How many children? We do not add one, two, or three; rather, we multiply: two, four, six, and eight! Let us remember that children who are home birthed, home schooled, and churched in a strong local Church are key to the survival of the remnant in this generation.

6) Seek the peace of the city where you live. This is a call to exercise Christian citizenship and let your light shine in the community in which you live. As Christians we are to be a light in a world

of darkness. We must learn to live under authority and be honest, hard working citizens exercising good self-government in our personal, family, and church lives. If captives in ancient Babylon were called to exercise good citizenship, is it asking too much for remnant Christians living in modern Babylon to exercise good Christian citizenship?

7) Pray unto Yahweh for the peace of the community where you live. Here is a final call to Christian dominion of the earth. We are to have intercessory prayer for the country, state, county, and community where we live. We are to bind the powers of darkness, including the legions of demons, powers, principalities, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Making prayer targets of special people in our community is an important step in Christian dominion.

Christian dominion of the earth is central to our life vision. May remnant fathers and sons stand up in the name of Jesus Christ and with a clear vision of Job 29 step forth in Christian dominion. The survival of the Christian remnant in our generation and in every Israelite nation under heaven depends on dominion. We must take dominion, and the place to begin is in our own lives, then with our families and the churches where we worship. **Why wait longer? What are the grounds upon which we procrastinate?** *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Cor. 16:13). "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" (Phil. 4:15).*

THE SELF-GOVERNED CITIZEN

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of Christ, that we should not be condemned with the world" (I Cor. 11:31-32). "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

Self-government is the foundation for Christian citizenship. It begins with every man self-examining his thoughts, words, deeds, motives of the heart, and attitudes. Self-government minimizes the need for government at every level of life. God and Scripture call every Christian man and woman to a daily examination of life. We are to live

with a conscience that is without offense to God and man. A clear conscience can be built only when our thoughts, words, deeds, motives of the heart, and attitudes reflect the character and person of Jesus Christ. Self-government is the basis for genuine Christianity. Jesus Christ himself stated, *“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Luke 9:23).

Living a life of self-denial and dying to self daily in Godly repentance to Jesus Christ is the basis for a self-governing citizen. We are to take up the cross of Jesus Christ on a daily basis. This demands that self-government become a daily routine of life. When we view the cross of Jesus Christ on a daily basis, we will take on the character and virtue of Jesus Christ. The symbol of the cross reminds us of the self-denial and unselfish life of Jesus Christ. As soldiers of His cross, we are called to be crucified daily to self-will, self-love, and self-intellect. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20).

Self-government demands that we have a circumcised heart that is committed to Jesus Christ and living by the standard of His Law. The circumcision of the heart demands a spiritual heart transplant by means of the Holy Spirit. We are to be born again, born from above, born anew (John 3:3) by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. We must become a new creation in Jesus Christ. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”* (II Cor. 5:17).

Self-government requires that the Ten Commandments be written by the power of the Holy Spirit on our inward parts (intellect, will, and emotions) and upon the fleshly tables of our heart (our spirit). *“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people”* (Jeremiah 31:33). Hear also from Hebrews 10:15-16: *“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Yahweh, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;”*

Self-government means that the two tables of the Ten Commandments are spiritually written onto the soul and spirit. The first table of the

Law (first five of the Ten Commandments) establish man’s duty to God:

- 1) **Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
- 2) **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.**
- 3) **Thou shalt not take the name of Yahweh thy God in vain.**
- 4) **Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
- 5) **Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which Yahweh thy God giveth thee.**

A self-governed citizen must be spiritually committed to pleasing his Creator God. This first table of Commandments is central to self-government in the life of every Christian. If, however, man were to keep the first Table of the Ten Commandments without due regard for the rest of them, he would become a mystic. The Christian must also have the second table, the last five of the Ten Commandments, written on his intellect and heart by the supernatural working of the Holy Ghost. The Second Table reveals man’s duty to his neighbor and are central to self-government. If man applied only the second table of the Ten Commandments, he would be a humanist without regard for his Creator. All of the Ten Commandments are essential for Christian Citizenship. Not one of them can be diminished in the life of a Christian.

- 6) **Thou shalt do no murder.**
- 7) **Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
- 8) **Thou shalt not steal.**
- 9) **Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**
- 10) **Thou shalt not covet.**

The Ten Commandments are the basis for the Covenant made with Israel in the Old Testament. *“And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone”* (Deuteronomy 4:13). This covenant of the Ten Commandments was given to Israel that they might become a holy people unto Yahweh above all who were on the face of the earth. Israel’s failure to keep that covenant placed them under the curse of death. Jesus Christ redeemed Israel from the curse or penalty of disobedience (Galatians 3:13), and having been redeemed by the blood

of Jesus Christ (bought back from the bondage of sin and death), we now stand justified before God the Father by faith in Jesus Christ. We have the Ten Commandments now written on our hearts by the Holy Spirit in confirmation of the New Covenant promise made to all the House of Israel, as recorded in Jeremiah 31:31-34. As a new creation in Jesus Christ, we have the letter of the Law written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of our heart. We are convicted by the Holy Spirit when we violate these spiritual laws.

Spiritual Laws of Self-Government

Seven spiritual laws help build and reinforce self-government for the Christian Citizen, a review of which is necessary. Every Christian should give careful attention to these:

1) Daily Repentance: This spiritual law demands that we seek to replace the spirit of pride with that of genuine repentance. Are we willing to set aside our human reason for God's original design, the Laws of the Bible? What areas of God's original design (Law) are we compromising in our lives? In what way has our life changed since becoming a Christian? Are we growing in our salvation? Are we seeking to return in every area of life to the original design of our Creator God? Have we parked our spiritual man in a "comfort zone" to live in apathy and indifference? Are we willing to conform our lives to the unchanging standard of God's absolute Law Word? This is a vital area for building self-government.

2) Daily Submission: The spiritual law of submission mandates that we seek to live under authority and thereby enjoy the direction, protection, and provision of our God. Walking under Godly authority demands that we set aside the spirit of rebellion and live under the authorities that God has placed over us in the home, church, and state. We are never to give blind passive obedience to ungodly commands, but always are bound by our Christian conscience to remain true and faithful to Scripture. It is important to purpose to live under authority and to make proper appeals in a good spirit when we feel that we are given bad instruction by our authorities. God has purposed to delegate and minister direction, protection, and provision for life through a chain of command ruling over us. To live in rebellion to authority is as the sin of witchcraft (*I Samuel 15:23*).

3) Daily Responsibility: We are bound to live in daily accountability for our thoughts, words, deeds, motives of the heart, and attitudes.

Unrighteous thoughts, ungodly words, unchristian deeds, wrong motives of the heart, and bad attitudes can cloud our conscience with guilt and leave us spiritually wounded. Unconfessed sin will leave our conscience guilt ridden and rob us of our ability to discharge Christian citizenship. Being accountable to Jesus Christ for all the willing, acting, and emotions of our soul enables us to keep a clear conscience that is without offense to God and man. Unconfessed sin remains as guilt and weights the conscience with spiritual bondage. Living in the fear of God and being responsible to Him on a daily basis for all our words and actions are powerful stimuli to help us be good Christian citizens.

4) Daily Forgiveness: Learning to practice forgiveness until it is habitual is central to building a strong spiritual man that can practice good Christian citizenship. Every Christian can expect to suffer in this present world, whether it be persecution for Christ's sake, suffering for our own foolishness and sin, or suffering according to the greater will of God (*1 Peter 4:12-19*). Our response to suffering is vital to our spiritual, emotional, and physical well being. Our goal is to practice forgiveness for all kinds of suffering, deserved or undeserved. Failure to practice genuine, heartfelt forgiveness leaves room for a root of bitterness within our spiritual man which can lead to spiritual, emotional, and physical sickness with serious consequences and can even cut short one's life span. Understanding suffering and learning to respond with forgiveness to our offenders is a mark of good Christian citizenship.

5) Daily Yielded Rights: Christian citizenship requires that we view life, liberty, property, and happiness as God's property, not an inherent right that we are born with. It is vital that we establish God's ownership over life, a spouse, children, work, and all property that we may consider ours. We may view ourselves as stewards over that which belongs to God; we are mere caretakers of God's property. We entered into this world with nothing, and we shall leave with nothing. Therefore, we must learn to yield rights to that which belongs only to God.

Whatever blessings He chooses to give us we count as undeserved gifts from His divine storehouse of love. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are gifts and privileges from God, not inherent rights with which we are born. We are born into sin under the penalty of death. We are redeemed from that condition of eternal death by Jesus Christ, and as His bondslaves, we praise Him for whatever gifts and privileges He grants us.

Christian citizenship is increased a hundred fold when we learn to yield rights of ownership of life, liberty, and property and understand them to be gifts and blessings from our Creator God, held in sacred trust and in fear of His name.

6) Daily Purity of Life: Living in moral purity is central to building good Christian citizenship. We are to preserve our bodies and minds a living sacrifice unto God, holy and acceptable unto Him. Living in holiness requires that we overcome the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. A man's morality will dictate his theology and greatly influence his view of citizenship. Moral purity of body, soul, and spirit will build a temple wherein the Holy Spirit will find joy, peace, and fulfillment. We must refrain from all forms of tobacco, drugs, and other harmful agents that could bring harm to our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. We must practice total abstinence from alcoholic beverages. Moral purity of the body is vital to our physical and spiritual well being. Every form of sensual reading material, television, and pornography must be suppressed. No form of sexual perversion can be permitted, including homosexuality, miscegenation, fornication, and adultery. To live in moral and spiritual holiness is to exercise self-control and bring lust under control of the Holy Spirit.

7) Daily Success in Life: Success in life is measured in terms of loving and serving our Creator God, neighbors, and those who are in need and deprivation. Success in life is learning to live in the fear of Yahweh and to love Him with all our heart, mind, and soul. To fear God and keep His commandments is the primary duty of man in this earth. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"* (Eccles. 12:13-14). When we cloth the naked, visit the sick, feed the poor, take care of the strangers, and visit those in prison, we do it as unto Christ (Matthew 25:35-40).

CITIZENSHIP AND THE FAMILY

"Children, obey your parents in the Christ: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Christ" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

Christian citizenship begins with the family, the foundation upon which the church and the nation are built. The cornerstones of great churches and nations are laid in the Christian family. The family is the most basic government established by God and is the most important in Scripture. The home will be the first school, the first church, and the first government a child will know. Amid the instruction received by the commandment of the father and the law of the mother (Proverbs 6:20), the child will receive his first instruction in good citizenship. The citizenship of a strong nation begins with training a child in the way that he should go (Proverbs 22:6). The Christian home is the finest classroom for citizenship that a country can possess. Here, children are taught how to come under authority of their parents, how to submit to that authority, and how to live responsibly to the laws and government of the home. Great nations arise out of the spiritual training of Christian homes and churches.

The early childhood years are the formative years of life where children can be molded into greatness. They are clay in the hands of the master potter, the parent, who teaches them moral and spiritual values that will guide them through life. Values they are taught include honesty, thrift, morality, discipline, work ethics, and spiritual priorities for living a successful life. Parental instruction should also include practical knowledge about the Bible, spiritual priorities, and the necessary skills for meeting basic human needs. Within the hallowed walls of the Christian home children learn responsibility through various chores, and they learn that character defects like slothfulness, dishonesty, greed, stealing, gossip, and other flaws are not to be tolerated. The Christian home is the first classroom where children are given praise for good works and punishment for evil deeds.

The home is the ideal atmosphere for learning to serve others, sharing, and proper ways to respond to others around them. All of the rudiments of good Christian citizenship should be a daily routine within the typical family. Years of molding, educating, training, and experience within the family government prepare a child for his role in Christian

citizenship in his community, state, and nation. The Missionary and Literature Room of the Church of Israel can provide much direction and guidance to good materials for building character in children. You are encouraged to write for counsel in this area, if you so desire.

Godly parents are the real teachers of Christian citizenship. The first government created on earth was the union of one man (Adam) with one woman (Eve) in the holy state of Matrimony, and parenting is the highest calling and forms the most important unit of government on earth. The husband/father is, of course, the spiritual leader of the family, as well as the protector and provider. The wife, as a help meet, was not created to be a wall flower. The Proverbs 31 woman is no small calling! Her industry, talent, guidance, and leadership within the home enhance the work and dominion call of every Godly man.

Since the father is responsible for leadership, protection, and provision within the family, careful attention must be given to his office and authority. He stands in great need of spiritual counsel and daily help from his Creator God. It is imperative that he establishes spiritual priorities that will enable him to build his marriage and family upon Jesus Christ, the Rock. He needs to walk in genuine salvation and must desire to make the Word of God the primary focus for living his daily life and providing Godly leadership for his family. To accomplish these goals, let us consider some steps which may assist the fathers.

1) He should rise early in the morning and spend time in private prayer, meditation, and Bible study. This study could include reading, meditation, and memorization of Scripture. He should seek the wisdom and understanding of Yahweh for the daily operation of his life, work, and affairs of his family.

2) The father should awaken the family and have a call to worship around the family altar; this should precede all other activities of the day, including breakfast and other chores. This daily family altar call in the early morning is important because the whole family gathers to read and discuss God's Word and have wisdom searches for each particular day. Reading the Book of Proverbs, one chapter each day, every month provides excellent spiritual counsel for the children. One other chapter from a selected book could supplement Proverbs. Family prayers should be contexted to the needs of the day. This daily family altar call is vital to building strong families. The family that prays together will stay together.

3) The father should provide systematic instruction from the Bible with the assistance of the mother. Each evening the father should devote a few minutes leading the children in memorizing the Word of God. Additional instruction in Christian character building is appropriate at this time. Thirty minutes or more spent each evening will pay enormous dividends in the unfolding years.

4) The father should take his family to worship on a regular and timely basis. The value of attending public worship on the Holy Sabbath is central to building good Christian citizenship in the family. The local Church enhances and strengthens all that the Christian family learns.

5) Parents are responsible for the Christian education of their children. Children cannot be left to the public school system for education, for it amounts to an education in secular humanism, immorality, drugs, alcoholism, profanity, and violence. The preservation of a Christian nation rests upon Christian education of children. Home schooling, private tutors, and church schools are spiritual light years ahead of the public school system, so let us keep our children out of the public schools. One hour of good home instruction is worth three hours in the public school.

6) Parents should require their children to memorize and understand the Ten Commandments and the Apostles and Nicene Creeds and have a working knowledge of the Bible as they grow in maturity.

7) Parents should be diligent in training and disciplining their children; their instruction should reinforce the basic Christian character necessary for good citizenship in the home, church, and community.

Let us never forget that the Christian family is the beginning, middle, and end (almost!) of teaching good Christian citizenship. Restore the office of the father and pray that God fearing, Bible believing men will step forward to rebuild the fallen foundations of the family within the Christian remnant. May Jesus Christ grant strength and wisdom to the Godly fathers and mothers seeking to teach good citizenship to their children within the sacred walls of the home.

CITIZENSHIP AND THE CHURCH

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).

The Church of Jesus Christ is built upon the rock (*Jesus Christ—I Corinthians 10:4*). Christ is referred to as the cornerstone of His Church in *Ephesians 2:20*. The Apostle Peter was not the rock; his failure to stand the test of loyalty at the arrest of Jesus Christ confirms this. The revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is indeed a solid truth from the lips of Peter that was received from heaven. The Divinity of Jesus Christ is the rock upon which the Living Church is built.

Christian citizenship is forged and made spiritually strong upon Jesus Christ, the Rock. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church (*Eph. 2:22, Col. 1:17*); the Church, which is His body in time and creation, is made up of those redeemed in Jesus Christ throughout all generations. Citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven begins in the Church of the Living God. Men are prepared for Christian citizenship in the worship, liturgy, doctrine, sacraments, and law found in the Church. The Church is not a place where Christians gather and learn, only to forget when they return to the world, for it is here that Christians are spiritually and intellectually prepared to do battle against Satan, the world system, and their own sin nature. Moreover, the duties of Christian citizenship are clearly defined in God’s Word from the pulpit of the Church.

The local Church plays a vital role in building Christian citizenship. Spiritual intimacy is enjoyed by all Christians united in Jesus Christ and His Church. Fellowship here is like none other on earth. Regular worship and praise to Jesus Christ within a structured Church body is vital to the spiritual and mental well being of a nation’s citizens. Singing great hymns of the faith, fervent prayer, and a liturgy based on Scripture build spiritual strongholds of greatness among the saints; such encouragement and spiritual rejuvenation can not be found anywhere else.

Churchmen who are loyal to the Church will also be loyal to their country. The Church is where God’s Law Word is proclaimed from sanctified pulpits. It is where Biblical sacraments are celebrated, sound Christian doctrine is articulated, and the Motivational, Ministry, and Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit are identified and spiritually

perfected. The Living Church gathers in holy convocation on the Holy Sabbath (each seventh day), a day that was sanctified and blessed from the dawn of creation and remains the day designed as the Holy Sabbath for Israel.

Christians are commanded to tithe from the increase of the earth in support of the work and Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ declared in the Great Commission for His disciples, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”* (*Matthew 28:19-20*). Faithful tithe payment is essential to preserving a Christian nation. When men honor God with the tithe from the increase of His earth and appropriate it in a responsible manner, the blessings of God are poured upon the tithe payer and the community where he lives.

As you can see, the local Church is central to the building good Christian Citizenship. When a nation closes down commerce, work, and trade in honor of the Holy Sabbath and Christian men and women gather in holy convocations throughout the land, there will be revival in the land.

CHRISTIAN DUTIES TO CIVIL RULERS

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:” (*Romans 13:1-3*). Christians owe civil rulers two fundamental things: firstly, obedience, and secondly, prayer. *Titus 3:1-2* commands us, *“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.”* That Christians are to obey civil rulers is clearly mandated in the Holy Bible. *I Peter 2:13-17* bears strong witness to the submission required of all Christians to those in authority: *“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for Christ’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish*

men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." The offices of the king, president, governor, magistrate, and judge are ordained by God. All power in heaven and earth belongs to God and issues from Him (Matt. 28:18, Psm. 62:11, Col. 1:16, John 17:2, 19:11, and Rev. 1:18). By authority of Yahweh (the God of the Bible), kings rule. "*By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth*" (Prov. 8:15-16). The heart of the king is in the hand of the Creator God: "*The king's heart is in the hand of Yahweh, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will*" (Prov. 21:1). Daniel 5:21 declares that "*the most high God rules in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.*" No civil ruler sits upon the throne of power without the notice and authority of the Creator God. David makes this plain in Psalms 75:6-7: "*For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*" St. Paul in Romans 13:1 makes it clear that there is no power but of God and that the powers that be are ordained of God. There is only one power source in heaven and earth, and that is the one, true, and living uncreated God of heaven and earth. This power or authority is delegated by God to an earthly chain of command at three levels of government: the home, the church, and the civil realm. Likewise, this power is delegated through a chain of command. In the Civil realm it may be the king or president, the governor, and lesser authorities under him, all the way down to the civil magistrate, judge, sheriff and lesser authorities. Authority is delegated, is ministerial, and is protective. Power is ministerial in that the civil ruler (magistrate, judge, sheriff) issues judgment from God by way of a chain of command. This power is protective in that God blesses and provides direction for all those who submit to the authority of the civil magistrate. (God and Scripture do not demand blind, passive obedience to unscriptural commands). Imperative to remember is that all power comes from God, that the powers that be are ordained (ordered) of God, and that this power is delegated, ministerial, and protective. This is fundamental to understanding Christian citizenship.

Christians have a moral duty to obey the civil magistrates and laws that govern the realm as long as they are not commanded to violate Scripture. If they are faced with laws and decrees which violate God and Scripture, they need to enter a time of self-examination and search their

own lives for error. Secondly, they should make Godly appeals in a good spirit to the proper authority, pray for spiritual direction, and if all else fails, either flee the jurisdiction or prepare to suffer for not doing wrong. Christians must submit to all laws and decrees which do not violate the Bible. Follow the example of Daniel and be prepared to suffer for not violating God's Word.

Christians also have a moral duty to pray for civil rulers, good and bad. "*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour*" (I Timothy 2:1-3). Christians are not to bless bad rulers and condone their sin, but pray that they will come to the knowledge of salvation and confess and turn away from the sin that separates them from God. Moreover, they are to pray that civil rulers will not impose laws and decrees which rob them of their peace with God and Christian dominion of the earth. Christians are never to bless a civil ruler in his sin. They should pray that he will repent and be brought to the knowledge of the truth.

EXERCISING WISDOM IN VOTING

It is not easy to tell someone how to exercise wisdom in voting for elected people in government. In every Israelite nation there is wide departure from the Covenant Law of the Bible, and we live under the curses of our national sin. Central to that judgment is that we no longer find the Christian Common Law of the Bible as the foundation for government in America. Our Congressmen, Supreme, Appellate, and District Judges, the President, and Vice President all are officers of the federal jurisdiction within the legislative democracy of the District of Columbia. Given that the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government preside over the administration of our country's bankruptcy and are responsible for public policies that insure subservience to the money lenders rather than those laws that are good for America, there is not much future in voting for public office holders at the federal level. The courts administer the judicial bankruptcy of the country, the congress legislates public policies that insure the monetary foreclosure of the country, and the executive branch sees that bankruptcy is enforced. Operating under these conditions, many find it difficult to vote for any one at the federal level of government. Registering to vote

places the individual under jurisdiction of this federal democracy.

An opposing school of thought views a no-voting posture as a surrender of Christian dominion. These people want to register and vote for public officials at all levels of government, for they believe that nothing that has taken place with respect to our standing as citizens of the Republic of the United States of America demands forfeiting voting for or against those people running for public office at any level of government. These people view themselves as being responsible for supporting those candidates who best reflect the Christian character of Jesus Christ and who most closely adhere to the principles of the Holy Bible. They perceive that staying at home on election day is a step away from Christian dominion and believe it is very important to know as much as possible about the people running for office, including personal morals, history, and positions held on all important issues.

Israelites living in the Republic of the United States of America may wish to consider the following salient points if they desire to make prudent decisions in voting. The constitution provides three critical opportunities for the private citizen to cast a vote. First is the vote cast at the polls for candidates running for public office; second is the vote of the Grand Jury, and third is the vote of the Jury Trial. Let us examine each of these.

Candidates for Public Office

When considering a vote for any particular candidate for public office, the following criteria are helpful. These are established in the Holy Bible, and while they may be offensive by worldly standards, they indicate how far we are removed from the position of God and Scripture. The following criteria are reflected in the standard of the Holy Bible:

- 1) The candidate should be male: gender is important. Wives and daughters stand under the cover of the male head of house. Wives that vote should always do so in unison with the husband. The Bible does not endorse a woman running for public office.
- 2) The candidate should be an Israelite that is perfect in his generations or family history.
- 3) The candidate should be a Christian who is living in genuine salvation.
- 4) The candidate should have moral values that are commensurate with the absolute moral standards of the Bible.

- 5) The candidate should espouse views that are Christian, Biblical, and historically sound and good for the country.
- 6) The candidate should meet the standards outlined in I Timothy 3 in his personal and family life.
- 7) The candidate should espouse views that are reflected in Scripture and offer plans and programs that reflect the Bible.

The Grand Jury

The Grand Jury has the duty to hear evidence and bring formal charges against persons believed guilty of a crime. Persons indicted or accused by the Grand Jury are later tried by the Petit Jury in a criminal trial. The Grand Jury has from twelve to twenty three members. It decides whether there is enough evidence to hold for trial a man suspected of a crime. In some cases, it makes a formal accusation, called an indictment, against the man. He then is indicted and must face a future criminal trial by the Petit Jury. The District Attorney or other prosecutor usually schedules the hearings of witnesses before the Grand Jury. Unlike Petit Jurors, Grand Jurors may rely on their knowledge as well as on that of the witnesses who testify. In the United States, the Constitution requires an indictment by a Grand Jury before trial for most crimes against Federal Law. The following description of a Grand Jury is found in Black's Law Dictionary, Revised Fourth Edition: *"A jury of inquiry who are summoned and returned by the sheriff to each session of the criminal courts, and whose duty is to receive complaints and accusations in criminal cases, hear the evidence adduced on the part of the state, and find bills of indictment in cases where they are satisfied a trial ought to be had."* They are first sworn, and instructed by the court. This is called a "grand jury" because it comprises a greater number of jurors than the ordinary trial jury or "petit jury." In common law, a grand jury consisted of not less than twelve nor more than twenty-three men, and this is still the rule in many of the states, though in some the number is otherwise fixed by statute; thus in Oregon and Utah, the grand jury is composed of seven men; in South Dakota, not less than six nor more than eight; in Texas, twelve; in Idaho, sixteen; in Washington, twelve to seventeen; in North Dakota, sixteen to twenty-three; in California, nineteen; in New Mexico, twenty-one.

The Grand Jury holds a significant place in America, and when it is not abused and proceeds within well-defined guidelines of Christian

common law, it holds a central place in the heritage of our civil government. The vote of the Grand Jury is indeed a vote of great importance. No person could be seated on the Grand Jury without prayerful and humble recognition of the importance of the vote that may clear or indict a person being investigated by the Grand Jury.

The Jury Trial

The United States Constitution requires twelve members in Federal Courts, but in some states petit juries may have as few as six members. The Jury has taken on great significance in Christian common law since June 15, 1215, when the embattled barons of England met King John on the meadow at Runnymede and forced him to sign the Magna Carta. The Citizens Rule Book, Paper-House Publications, "Stronger than Steel!" 4th Revision, makes the following statements about the Jury. *"It is the duty of the jury to stand as a barricade between the extremes of tyranny and anarchy! The Jury's right and primary duty is to judge the justice of the law! The Jury's responsibility is to restrain bad and oppressive government by not convicting defendants under unjust laws. It must also prevent anarchy by convicting, when someone has damaged another person or his property.*

Historically, tyranny by government has always been more difficult to check than lack of government. Oppressive governments are far more in abundance than countries with little or no government at all."

"Our forefathers found the ideal solution to the sticky problems of tyranny and anarchy, they made the Jury of Twelve the most powerful branch of government! Although Congress, the Supreme Court, the Grand Jury and eligible citizens were given a vote, veto powers were limited to the President and ultimately to the Jury! However, the Jury vote is stronger than even the President's vote as they have the power to judge both the law and the fact! Even one Juror with a "Not Guilty" vote can nullify bad law in that case by 'hanging the jury'!"

"This power to judge both the law and the fact is still valid, but knowledge of this fact is virtually unknown to Jurors. Since neither public education nor the courts teach these facts and, further, since most defendants do not know how to, or are not allowed to properly question and inform citizens during the seating of a Jury, most Jurors are completely ignorant on this subject. By what type of logic should Jurors have the power to nullify bad laws but not the right to know about that power?"

"Our forefathers soon realized the miracle of Self-Government.

They found by keeping the power in the hands of the people, via the jury vote, coupled with the simple justice of the Common Law, they did not produce anarchy but genuine God given freedom! The only power the judge has over the jury is their ignorance!...Consider the following."

"The jury has a right to judge both the law as well as the fact in controversy" (John Jay, 1st Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1789).

"The jury has the right to determine both the law and the facts" (Samuel Chase, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1796, Signer of the unanimous Declaration).

"The jury has the power to bring a verdict in the teeth of both law and fact" (Oliver Wendell Holmes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1902).

"The law itself is on trial quite as much as the cause which is to be decided" (Harland F. Stone, 12th Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1941).

"The pages of history shine on instances of the jury's exercise of its prerogative to disregard instructions of the judge..." (U.S. vs. Dougherty, 473 F 2nd 1113, 1139, (1972).

One citizen, committed to Jesus Christ and the principles of the Christian faith, can exercise powerful good for his country and the future of his children by the Godly exercise of his vote on the Jury. Without the concurrence of any of your fellow jurors in a criminal trial, you, with your single vote of "not guilty," can nullify every rule or "law" that is not in accordance with Christian common law. No person sitting on a jury should ever allow himself to be intimidated by the judge or fellow jury members. You have a responsibility to judge both the fact and the law under which the person is charged. The Jury can serve as a powerful instrument to restore America, or any other country, to the God of the Bible and the truth of His Word. Your vote on the Jury is as great or greater than the veto power of the President. An intelligent body of people can rebuild the foundations of government with the proper exercise of the jury vote.

You may wish to send for The Citizens Rule Book published by Whitten Printers, 1001 S. 5th St., Phoenix, AZ 85004. This pocket hand book contains a wealth of good information for exercising Christian citizenship.

EXERCISING PRIVILEGES UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The Bill of Rights describes the fundamental liberties of the people under the U. S. Constitution. Adopted on December 15, 1791, this day has been celebrated as Bill of Rights Day in the United States. Before discussing the Bill of Rights, carefully examine each of them.

AMENDMENT 1

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT 2

A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT 3

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner; nor in time of war but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT 4

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT 5

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

AMENDMENT 6

In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

AMENDMENT 7

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States than according to the rules of the common law.

AMENDMENT 8

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

AMENDMENT 9

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The Bill of Rights, now added to our U.S. Constitution, had its origins in the earlier Bill of Rights which Parliament presented to King William III and Queen Mary in 1689 in a document called the Magna Carta, in the Petition of Right presented to King John at Runnymede in 1215, and in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen in France (1789). Many scholars believe that the genesis for these rights can be traced to the roots of the Christian Common Law.

As citizens of the Republic of the United States of America, we are most grateful for the freedom that we have remaining under the Bill of Rights. The joy of writing, printing, and mailing this Handbook on Christian Citizenship is proof that the Bill of Rights, in at least limited

form, works in our country. That there has been tremendous erosion of these basic liberties in recent years no one denies. The loss of basic freedoms inherent within the Bill of Rights is commensurate with our denial of the Ten Commandments and other Biblical precepts in this and previous generations in the American Republic. There is a direct correlation between liberty and obedience to the Laws of God and Scripture. The greater our obedience to the Divine Law, the more liberty we enjoy under man's law. Conversely, the greater our departure from God and His Law, the more oppressive man's law becomes, and we see a subsequent loss of liberty in every area of life. We have witnessed a tremendous assault on the Bill of Rights by public policy in the United States; this has come by way of legislation, court decrees, and administrative law. Simultaneously, there has been a radical departure from Jesus Christ and the Bible in our national populace.

Politics is the administration of the religious tenets of the people. The religious tenets of the people are secular humanism, void of God and Scripture. The laws reflected to the people by means of local, state, and federal legislation and court decrees grow increasingly more oppressive and humanistic. When the religious tenets of the people return to Jesus Christ and His Word, one can anticipate a turning of the hearts of civil rulers and judges to the Christian common law of our fathers. All power comes from God and is delegated through a chain of human command where it becomes ministerial in nature, ministering the will of God upon His people. Civil rulers will reveal the pleasure or displeasure of a Holy God by the way they rule. All rulers are servants to the will of Yahweh. Pharoah, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus the Great, Darius, and all the other kings and potentates of history have served the will of God Almighty in the earth. *Never doubt that Yahweh reigns!*

Rights vs Privileges

A long standing tradition in America is for people to view the Bill of Rights as something that man is born with; its rights are those that no government can lawfully take from him. This view assumes that man is born with the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that governments exist to protect these rights—but without the lawful authority to diminish them in any way. Man is thus viewed as inherently good, born in a state of innocence with innate, inherent rights. This is the prevailing view articulated by most people, especially those who label themselves as Christian patriots. The Bible presents another view of man,

however, and it is vital that this truth be communicated in this handbook.

Gifts from God or Rights from Man?

The Holy Bible presents every man as being born into a state of sin and death. *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12). *"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"* (Eccles. 7:20). *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (I John 1:8). *"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one"* (Job 14:1-4). From the fall of Adam into sin, the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—presents man as born into sin and under the curse of death. Thus, man's only “right” is death, the judicial penalty for his sin.

Does this mean that he has no right to life, liberty, or happiness? Certainly! The Bible does not support the humanist view that man is born inherently good with any of the rights contained in the Bill of Rights. God and Scripture place every member of Adam's race, male and female, under sin and thereby death. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). The Christian view is that man is born into the world as a sinner from his mother's womb (Psalm 51:5) and is thereby a bondslave to sin and under the penalty of death. Every blessing he receives is a gift from His Creator God, including life and all that sustains him.

Jesus Christ came into the world to redeem His people and buy them back from the bondage of sin and its death sentence. He paid the ransom price with His precious and sinless blood, thereby redeeming His people and lawfully transferring them from the Kingdom of Satan and the reign of sin to the glorious liberty of the Kingdom of Light and Jesus Christ's reign of righteousness. Having been born again, man is a new creature in Jesus Christ (John 3:3). He is spiritually transformed, given a new nature, and recreated in the image of Jesus Christ, the Living God. Having been redeemed, man is now the bondslave of Jesus Christ from whom he receives the blessings of life, liberty, property, etc. Notice that these are blessings, privileges, not “rights.”

In man's servant status, he looks to Jesus Christ as the author of his

life and everything in it, for apart from Jesus Christ man would continue to remain the lawful captive of sin and the bondslave to death. Because of Jesus Christ, redeemed man is a new creation and lives in grateful expectation that every blessing of life comes through His Redeemer.

The Christian citizen must also view the Bill of Rights as a gift resulting from the Christian obedience to Jesus Christ and Bible Law by the several generations who preceded this document.

Moreover, this or any gifts and privileges from Jesus Christ can be given, taken away, increased, or decreased by the same God who gave them. Compelled performance to the Covenant Law (Ten Commandments) is the only guarantee that these blessings, privileges, and gifts can be secured for ourselves and our posterity.

As Christian citizens living in the United States of America, we shall not view cherished liberties as an inherent right that cannot be taken from us. Rather, we shall view all the blessings under the Bill of Rights and government in general as gifts and privileges granted by the grace of Jesus Christ to His bond servants. Any erosion of these blessings should cause us to enter a time of self-examination, both personally and nationally, to see how our obedience to the Covenant Law (Ten Commandments) is holding. Serious loss of liberty indicates that we are being unfaithful to Jesus Christ and our covenant to Him. Restoration of lost gifts and privileges under the Bill of Rights and government in general will come only by a renewal, revival, and restoration of ourselves in heartfelt repentance under the Covenant Law (Ten Commandments) of Yahweh. *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"* (II Chr. 7:14).

As Christian citizens of this land, let us pray that we may exercise good stewardship over this gift of freedom and cherish and utilize these privileges to the glory of Jesus Christ. Let us teach our children well; may they learn by our good example. Every Christian, regardless of his country of residence, must remember this. Our cherished institutions of freedom are not ours by right, but by virtue of the goodness of Almighty God, who in mercy has granted these gifts and blessings in terms of the covenant made with our Christian fathers. These blessings of liberty are contingent upon our obedience to the Covenant Law of our Eternal God. May all of us in fear before Yahweh live in daily repentance, apply the blood of Jesus Christ, and live in obedience to His Covenant Law.

CHRISTIAN VIEW OF TAXES

What is the Biblical view of taxes? Should Christians pay them? Is it lawful to pay tribute to civil rulers? Can Christians lawfully protest paying taxes?

As with any discussion, let us first consult the Scriptures. God must always be our point of reference, for there can be no truth apart from Him and His Word. Moreover, we need answers that are germane to every Christian, regardless of his country of residence. Every government under heaven is likely to impose taxes upon its people. We need to remember that the Bible is the Word of God, and therefore infallible and unchanging. It speaks to every generation and nation within the Covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Israel. Biblical solutions are generic to all covenant people, something that cannot be said for any country's constitution! Human reason must be subordinate to Scripture in this and all matters.

The present progressive income tax in the United States of America and all other Israelite nations where it is levied has its origin in ancient Israel in the time of Judges. When Samuel, the last judge to rule Israel during the reign of Judges (about B.C. 1112), approached the end of his life, the children of Israel demanded a king. I Samuel 8 records the demand of the people for a transfer from a theocracy to a monarchy. Under the theocracy, Israel was ruled by Yahweh through His Covenant Law. Judges enforced this Law; no legislative bodies operated under this theocracy because the Law of God (Yahweh) prevailed as the only law of the realm. In it there was no progressive income tax, property tax, or any of most other taxes now levied in the Christian nations of the West. The theocracy was supported by the tithe, a tenth of all the increase of the earth. A tenth of this tithe supported the National Church of the realm. A poor tithe collected every third year provided for the widows, orphans, disabled, and poor. No property taxes were levied under this theocracy.

With such a wonderful plan of government, it is difficult to imagine why our ancestors demanded a transfer. Careful reading of I Samuel 8 confirms this transition from the Reign of Judges under the Law of Yahweh to a Monarchy and the gradual evolution of man's law and human reason. Samuel vigorously protested this transfer of government, but to no avail. The people were insistent. As we seek to understand why we have the progressive income tax in America and other Israelite nations in the world, a careful review of Samuel's warning is in order:

“And Samuel told all the words of Yahweh unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your men servants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and Yahweh will not hear you in that day” (I Samuel 8:10-18).

The warning given by Samuel deserves special attention. This event marks a watershed in the manner in which government receives its funding. From this point forward to this very day in history, government has been funded by various types of progressive income, property, and other taxes levied to meet the insatiable appetite of government demands for funding. The warning about a progressive income tax is found in the words of Samuel, judge and prophet of the Living God. Not only would the king demand a tithe, he would also make excessive demands on the wealth and substance of the people. The progressive income tax in America can be traced in a straight line to that point in our national history when we transferred from a Covenant nation under God and His Law to a government controlled by human reason. America existed from Jamestown (1607) to 1913, the birthyear of the progressive income tax, without any direct tax on income. Like all other Christian (?) nations, we are burdened with heavy tax levies that have imposed oppressive taxes on the populace. Like the people during the reign of Samuel, Israelites in America made a decision to discard God and His Law, including the tithe, in preference for human law (including the progressive income tax). The progressive income tax represents a judgment upon a people who have chosen man and human reason above God and His Law.

Because we would not have God and His Law reign over us, we now have the heavy hand of government and human reason in charge of our

lives. Without national repentance, confession of personal and ancestral sin, and a restoration of this land under Bible Law, there will be no relief from this oppressive taxation. We return, then, to our original questions. Should a Christian pay taxes? And even more important, should a Christian pay taxes knowing that those taxes may be used for programs that oppose God and Scripture? These are difficult questions, and answers can be gained only from God and His Word. To explore our respective constitutions, court decrees, law dictionaries, and other human sources is to elevate human reason and the mind of man to the status of god. Is this not precisely what the serpent offered to Eve? A way to find knowledge apart from God and His Word?

Because America rejected Jesus Christ and the Covenant Law of His Word, we exchanged the tithe for the progressive income tax. The graduated progressive income tax is not unique to modern America, but has been, more often than not, a standard fixture in governments that follow human reason above God and Scripture. Matthew 17:24-27 takes us back to Jesus Christ and a discourse on the payment of taxes. *“And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.”*

Several points of interest are noted in this discussion.

Firstly, Jesus Christ makes it clear that this particular tax was not chargeable to him. He was not a resident of Judea for many years, having resided in England for considerable years prior to His 30th year of life. Secondly, the point is made that lest the taxing authorities be offended, go make provision for their payment. People can debate, wrangle, and dissect these Scriptures, but clearly Jesus Christ made payment of the unlawful tax levied against him and Peter.

The lawfulness of paying a progressive graduated income tax was further presented to Jesus Christ by the Pharisees in Matthew 22:15-22. Let us carefully review this important case: *“Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent*

out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way."

Several points need to be emphasized in these Scriptures.

Firstly, Jesus Christ made it clear that in paying taxes, men indeed were obligated to render unto Caesar that which belonged to him, but they were not to forget to give to God that which belonged to Him. While Caesar may demand a tax that is defined as unlawful and men must pay that tax, this does not mean that the payment of the tithe is forfeited. Men under penalty of the income tax must continue to render unto God that which is due Him. Faithful payment of tithe enables Godly men to compensate for the losses they sustain under a progressive income tax. If faithful men persevere in obedience to their God, they will find themselves extricated from the income tax at a given point in time. The progressive, graduated income tax may be viewed as a judgment from God as per I Samuel 8. Repentance, confession of sin, and a return to the Covenant Law of Yahweh is the quickest remedy against unlawful taxation.

Secondly, Jesus Christ states that Caesar is a legitimate authority: "*Render therefore unto Caesar, the things which are Caesar's*" is clear acknowledgement that Caesar sits in a lawful power structure. St. Paul confirms this in Romans 13:1. "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*" Here the Apostle Paul makes three vital points about government. Firstly, every soul is to be subject to the higher powers or authorities. Secondly, there is no power but that which is of God. God is not in competition with Satan, with man, or any other power source. Thirdly, the powers or authorities that be are ordained of God. No ruler exists outside of or beyond the knowledge of God. Neither the great Pharaoh of ancient Egypt nor the kings of the ancient Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Greeks, and Romans, or any other president or potentate rules without the order of God.

The Caesar of ancient Rome is not an isolated example of history without relevance to other nations of history, including our own America. In the early history of the Roman Republic there was no Caesar. His appearance came after the populace removed themselves from the moral absolutes of God and family and assumed the character of a wicked and reprobate people. Very few nations initiated their history with a Caesar, a powerful despot. But in many instances, a powerful Caesar did appear. Unfortunately, America is no exception. Our president, armed with many enforcement agencies of government, holds the power of Caesar. The power to police public policy out of the barrel of a gun is equated with the authority of a Caesar.

Paying taxes to Caesar is required of all Christians. It was required of the Christians living under imperial Rome, and it is required of American citizens today. St. Paul's instructions to the Christians living in Rome is central to this question of taxation. "*Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour*" (Romans 13:5-7). Christians living under the tyranny of ancient Rome were ordered to pay tribute (taxes) to the Roman taxing authority. Oppression found in Rome then was equal to or greater than the graduated progressive income tax now levied in America. Yes! Christians must render unto Caesar that which is due. Conversely, they must not fail to render unto Yahweh that which belongs to Him.

When the publicans came to John the Baptist to be baptized, he ordered them to exact no more (in taxes) than that which was appointed by their superiors (Luke 3:12-13). If John the Baptist thought that exacting taxes was something unlawful, he would have told the publicans to step down from their job and cease collecting taxes. Instead, he ordered them to be honest and exact no more than that which was appointed them by their superiors. Taxing authorities who fear God will heed the words of John the Baptist and exact not a penny more than is required of them.

Tax protestors in Imperial Rome were many. The land of Judea swarmed with them, and for many reasons. When the land of Judea became a Roman province, people paid taxes not only to the Imperial Roman government, but to the various taxing authorities of their own governments. Out of this climate rose many tax rebellion movements, including those enumerated in Acts 5:36-37: "*For before these days rose*

up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

The tax protestors of the first century were not successful. In every case recorded in Scripture, its leaders perished, and all his followers either died, were imprisoned, or were dispersed. There has been no fruit borne by those involved in the tax rebellion movement of any country, America included.

Imprisonment, confiscation of property, ruined health, and other penalties are only the tip of the iceberg. Divorce, rebellious children, broken lives, and the dissolution of the family is the real price that can be charged to the tax rebellion movement. Moreover, those who are involved in such activity usually are not involved with a Church, pay little or no tithe, and spend far more time reading the works of man than the Word of God.

For the Prudent Only

Those Christians living in America and elsewhere throughout the Western Israelite nations of the earth must exercise great prudence. This wisdom is applicable to the matter of taxes also. Christians have every reasonable ground to limit liability for taxation. Living at a time when taxes are used for many programs that are indirect violation of Bible Law, prudent Christians must work within the system to limit liability for payment of taxes. Firstly, people should maximize the use of all tax deductions. Secondly, they may wish to reduce income in order to limit the amount of taxes owed. Thirdly, they may wish to consider a business venture that allows greater use of tax deductions. Fourthly, by careful and wise management of the family business, farm, or other enterprises, the amount of taxes owed will be minimal. Finally, tax liability may be reduced by electing to work for oneself instead of holding a high taxliability job in the corporate world.

THE POWER OF THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE

For the Christian there can be only one view of the civil magistrate, sheriff, judge, or civil ruler. All power is of God, and the powers (authority) that is ordained (ordered) is of God (*Romans 13:1*). There is no other power source. *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* Jesus Christ has all power in heaven and in earth. He is not in competition with man or Satan. *"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him"* (*John 17:2*). Who has power over all flesh? Jesus Christ! *John 19:11* confirms that Pontius Pilate could have no power at all against Jesus Christ except it were given him from above: *"Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."* Finally, St. Paul confirmed that Jesus Christ holds total power over all things, including thrones, dominions, principalities and powers. *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"* (*Col. 1:16*).

The Word of God teaches that all authority comes from God and is delegated through a chain of command in three jurisdictions of government: the family, church, and state. Those who claim that power originates with Satan or man could not be more wrong. Satan has no more authority than a sovereign God will allow him to have. Careful reading of *Job 1* and *2* confirms this. Men may assume that they have power independent of a sovereign God, but they are absolutely wrong. All of heaven and earth belong to Yahweh; he is sovereign over all. A proud and wicked king of ancient Babylon was humbled before a sovereign God, and from his lips came these amazing words: *"How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation"* (*Daniel 4:3*). A genuine Christian growing in salvation will submit human reason to *Romans 13:1*: *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."* The human intellect must cast aside all pride and believe *I Peter 2:13-17*. *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye*

may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." Civil magistrates, all judges, governors, kings, presidents, and civil authorities rule by the knowledge of Yahweh. All are his servants.

Since we live in a Biblically illiterate generation, it may be necessary to demonstrate from the Holy Scriptures that Yahweh is absolutely sovereign. Far too many Christians are under the illusion that we are to obey only good and benevolent rulers and that any civil magistrate or authority who does not conform to the standard of God's Word and Law can be ignored and disobeyed. Scripture proves such a position absolutely wrong. True, a Christian is under no obligation to obey any law or command that violates Scripture. This does not give license to oppose any and all laws that we feel are wrong, however. Unless we can demonstrate from the Bible that a particular law or command is in error, we must submit to the civil magistrate. Notice how Scripture shows the king and all civil authorities to be under the hand of a sovereign and holy God. Let these words from God insult your intellect and then repent of rebellion against Godly ordained authority.

Proverbs 21:1 says, "*The king's heart is in the hand of the YHWH, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*" Can human intellect bow before Proverbs 8:15-16? "*By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.*" Daniel 2:21 shows who places kings and presidents in office. "*And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*" Psalm 75:6-7 gives Yahweh all glory and power in the appointment of civil rulers, good and bad. "*For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*" Who controls the hearts of rulers, both good and bad? Will human reason accept Deuteronomy 2:30? "*But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.*"

Why did King Rehoboam elect to increase the tax levy of the Israelites following the death of his father Solomon? Will your intellect submit to the Biblical answer? "*Wherfore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the YHWH, that he might perform*

his saying, which the YHWH spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat." King Pul of ancient Assyria was a wicked tyrant. Who stirred up his heart and caused him to invade Israel and carry Israelites into captivity? The Word of God gives an answer that reaffirms Yahweh's sovereignty: "*And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.*" 11 Chronicles 21:16 confirms that King Jehoram was under control of Yahweh, for the enemy that came against this king was sent by the hand of a sovereign God. "*Moreover Yahweh stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians.*" After this it was Yahweh who smote Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels (11 Chr. 21:18-19).

Who punished King Amaziah, king of Judah, by delivering him into the hand of his enemies? "*But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.*" Who hardened the heart of Pharaoh? "*And Yahweh said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:*" Even more important, who raised the famous Pharaoh of the Exodus? "*And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*" When Yahweh was angry with ancient Israel because of their disobedience to His covenant Law, He moved king David to number Israel and Judah. "*And again the anger of the YHWH was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.*" It is interesting to note here that Yahweh, being the sovereign Lord of heaven and earth and all things therein, allowed Satan to provoke David to number Israel when Yahweh had not commanded such census to be taken. "*And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.*"

When Israel was in Egypt, who caused the Egyptian people to turn in hatred toward Israel? "*He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtly with his servants.*" When Joshua and the armies of Israel waged a scorched earth policy against the enemies of Yahweh, who stirred up their hearts to wage such battle? "*For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might*

destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses" (Joshua 11:20). What power placed hate in the heart of Eglon, king of Moab against the Israelites? "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of Yahweh: and Yahweh strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of Yahweh" (Judges 3:12). Notice in Jeremiah 25:9 that Yahweh calls Nebuchadrezzar his servant. Could the wicked tyrant Nebuchadrezzar be the servant of a sovereign God? "Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the YHWH, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations."

Who is the real governor among the nations? "For the kingdom is YHWH'S: and he is the governor among the nations" (Psa. 22:28). In Jeremiah 28:14 Yahweh caused many nations to be subservient to a tyrant king, Nebuchadnezzar of ancient Babylon. "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also." Ezekiel 30:24-26 is a marvelous revelation of how Yahweh moves the minds of kings, places his sword into their hands, and causes them to fulfill His divine will. "And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded man. But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I am the YHWH, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the Yahweh." Finally, Revelation 17:17 confirms that the ten kings of the Revelation letter will fulfill the divine will of a sovereign God. "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." The foregoing Scriptures all confirm the points made by St. Paul in Romans 13:1, namely that there is no power (authority) but of God, and the powers that be are ordained of God. Yahweh is in charge of His earth and all the

inhabitants thereof. "All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." Yahweh does minister judgment to the people through the hands of civil magistrates, governors, kings, and presidents, some of whom will be tyrants. "And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness" (Psa. 9:8). "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth" (Proverbs 8:15-16). As has been stated before, politics is the administration of the religious tenets of the people, and when their religious faith idolizes heathen gods and temples and man's law becomes the rule rather than the exception, judgment from their Creator God will be administered. Unless righteousness is found in the heart of the populace, there will be little or no justice in the civil realm of government. When sin reigns in the hearts of the people, evil tyrants will rule from the offices of government.

WARNING TO CIVIL RULERS

All who stand in authority in homes, churches, and states must remember that they are duty bound to rule in the fear of God. "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (II Sam. 23:3). Hear the instruction given to Judges in Deuteronomy 1:16-17: "And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it." Moreover, Deuteronomy 27:19 places the person that perverteth the judgment under a curse: "Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen." Proverbs 16:12 prohibits the king from doing any wickedness. "It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness." Proverbs 28:15-16 speaks clearly to wicked rulers and warns how they may prolong their days: "As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people. The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days."

In Proverbs 31:4-5, kings and princes are prohibited from drinking

alcohol. “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” Psalm 2:10-11 provides clear instruction to the kings and judges of the earth: “Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve Yahweh with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” Psalm 82 is a strong rebuke to wicked judges who fail to judge righteously. “God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.” The word “gods” in Psa. 82:1 has reference to the civil magistrate, as is confirmed in Exodus 22:28. “Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.”

For those who question the final disposition of wicked kings, consider Psalm 110:5-6: “The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.” Psalm 148:11 calls for all the kings and princes of the earth to praise Yahweh. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, sets forth some very excellent instruction for judges, so may they act this instruction: “And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.” Let all civil rulers know that Yahweh will hold the final court of judgment: “Yahweh will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; the spoil of the poor is in your houses.”

Scripture records strong warnings for judges who hand down unrighteous decrees. “Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed” (Isa. 10:1). Princes and judges who fail to rule in the fear of Yahweh should consider the warning given in Isaiah 40:23: “That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.” Ezekiel 45:9-10 provides excellent instruction for civil rulers. “Thus saith the Lord

Yahweh; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord Yahweh. Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.” Hosea 5:1 gives a clarion call to the priests and kings that judgment awaits them for the evil of their ways. “Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor.” Micah 3:1-2 clearly demonstrates that Yahweh is looking over the shoulders of civil rulers. “And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment? Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones.” Zephaniah 3:3-4 expresses the Divine concern that exists in Scripture for princes, judges, prophets, and priests. “Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow. Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.”

Christian citizens should take courage to know that all civil rulers will be judged of the Living God. There is a court of justice that stands above every court, including the Supreme Court: that court is the judgment seat of Almighty Yahweh. Let all Christian citizens remember that in due time, the Divine Judge will hand down his sentence against all who work iniquity. “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Eccles. 8:11). May every authority, be it the husband/father in the family, the priest/pastor in the church, or the civil magistrate/king in the state, rule in the fear of God and His eternal Word.

RESPONDING TO WICKEDNESS IN GOVERNMENT

That sin abounds in every government on earth no one denies. We need not examine any level of government very long before we can find evidence of sin (transgression of God's Law) abounding everywhere. The proliferation of evil in our generation knows no limits, for we are confronted everywhere with corruption, graft, greed, avarice, pride, and dishonesty in government. We have the best legislators that money can buy. Most elected officials owe their soul to the special interest groups that financed their election. America is run by administrative law, and Presidents are helpless to cut through the bureaucratic red tape should they even desire.

Our present Congress, House and Senate, President and his cabinet, and the judicial system (Federal District, Appellate, and Supreme Court of the United States) are administering the bankruptcy of the United States of America. The country is broke, we are saddled with a two trillion dollar debt, and the money changers call every important political and economic shot that is fired in government. Our civil leaders preside over a government that operates in total paralysis. We have lost our way, and the blind lead the blind at every turn. What is worse, civil rulers are unwilling to acknowledge Jesus Christ, repent of their sin, and restore themselves under Bible Law.

Sin is not confined to civil government, however. Rather, wickedness abounds in the hearts of our national population. Sin has evaded the familial structure of government, leaving families in dissolution. Transgression of God's holy Law is commonplace. American men languish in sin, and their wives and children have followed them into the abyss. The typical American family is a war zone of strife, confusion, sin, and wickedness. Adultery, alcohol, drugs, television, profanity, perversion, sensual pleasures of life, and an endless pursuit of sin characterize millions of American families. Sin has produced a harvest of divorce, rebellion, financial shipwreck, broken hearts, and scattered families. We dare not think that sin is isolated to the civil sphere of government, for it has invaded the family government, too.

Worse still, sin is not confined to these two areas: the churches of our generation have failed miserably to teach the knowledge and application of God's righteous Law. Pulpits are silent in the face of sin. The altars have given that which is holy unto the defiled. The Church has failed to draw lines with the world, thereby letting the world invade it. Preachers

minister for hire, and the pulpits are cold, without life and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God has not been communicated to this generation. Our churches have become social centers where people expect to be entertained and sent home without any exposure of their personal sins. And repentance? What is that? Four hundred and fifty thousand ministers in America have failed to bring a nation to repentance before Jesus Christ; they have failed to restore Divine Law. No, sin is not peculiar to the civil sphere of government. Sadly, it has found a comfortable resting place within our churches, as well.

Ezekiel 22:26-30 accurately describes the total spiritual condition of our country: pray for our land as you read these words.

"Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord Yahweh, when Yahweh hath not spoken. The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

What then, can God fearing, blood washed, spirit filled, Bible believing Christians do in responding to sin in civil government? What steps can you take to protest this evil? How do you respond to the unbiblical commands of a civil magistrate? What specifically do you do when you are asked to do something that violates Scripture? Consider this plan of action. Christian citizenship demands that you know how to respond to sin in government.

Enter a Time of Self-Examination

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged" (I Corinthians 11:31). "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5). "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights

in the world;" (Phil. 2:15). How can you respond to sin in government? Enter a time of personal examination. Is there sin in your life? Have you come to repentance? Have you confessed your sin before Jesus Christ? Have you made restitution to those against whom you have sinned? Have you sought forgiveness before God and those you have offended? Have you carefully checked your attitude? Do you reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Do love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance characterize your personal life? Do you have a clear conscience that is void of offense toward God and your neighbor? Do you have a rebellious heart? (*Jeremiah 17:9,10*). Do you have problems with other people? Do you harbor bitterness toward others? Do your thoughts, words, deeds, motives of the heart, and attitudes reflect the character of Jesus Christ? How much sin is in your life? Do you use tobacco? Do you use alcohol? Do you depend on drugs? Do you use profanity? Are you faithful to your wife? Do you love her? Do you treat her as Christ would treat the Church? Do you love your children? How often do you pray with your family? How often do you read the Bible to your children? Are you a Godly husband? Are you meeting the Bible standards for fatherhood? Do your children love and obey you? Does your wife honor you, love you, submit to your wise counsel? Do you listen to rock music? Do you enjoy listening to sensual country music? Do you enjoy occult activities? Do you or your children have sensual books in your home? Do you watch a lot of television? Do you or your children watch PG, PG-13, and R or X rated movies? How deep has sin invaded your life?

When you want to correct the government, check your own life first. *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"* (*I Peter 4:17*). It is imperative that you enter a time of repentance before Jesus Christ and make corrections in your own life before you seek to set civil authorities straight. Self-examination, repentance, and a restoration of your life under the headship of Jesus Christ and His Law are the first steps in addressing evil in government and planning any appeal for a law that causes you to violate Scripture. I John 1 and Psalm 51 both are excellent Bible references for moving into repentance. When we make our way to the cross of Jesus Christ, humbly confessing our sin and desiring to make amends, we are taking the first and most essential step in responding to sin in government.

Appeal to Civil Authorities

Having entered this self-examination and made the necessary changes in your personal life and family, you are now ready to initiate your appeal to the proper civil authority. In doing so, consider the following important criteria:

- 1) Check your spirit and be certain that you are working with a humble spirit; rebellion and bitterness should not be reflected in your thinking, talking, and writing. It is imperative that you reflect an humble, honest, and meek spirit in addressing your civil magistrate.
- 2) Come up with a creative alternative to the unbiblical command that has been given you by the civil authority. When compelled to eat unclean food, Daniel presented his authority with an alternative plan (*Daniel 1*). Be creative and examine how you might fill the wishes of your civil authority by a plan that would not violate your religious conscience toward God.
- 3) Give time for God to change the mind of your authority. Expect your authority to receive pressure from God. Anticipate your authority to bring pressure upon you. Welcome this pressure, for it builds character. Finally, be consistent in responding to your authorities.

When All Appeals Fail, Then What?

When all of your appeals fail and you are faced with an ungodly command, you must be prepared to take these steps.

Appeal to God

Do this in the name, authority, and under the blood of Jesus Christ. The Israelites appealed to God when their cries went unheeded by Egyptian authorities (*Exodus 2:23*). The Holy Scriptures are replete with examples of how the Israelites appealed to Yahweh when all else failed. Time after time, He heard their cries. You may wish to review the Book of Judges for examples of how the petitions of a penitent people were heard by their Eternal God. Also consult Psalm 107.

II Chronicles 7:14 is very explicit, as well: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my*

face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Joel 2:12-18 gives excellent instruction on how a penitent people may approach their God and make appeals for deliverance. Daniel 9 and Ezra 9 both are good examples of intercessory prayer.

Flee the Jurisdiction

When all else fails, you can flee the jurisdiction of the authority. This relief is sanctioned for the wife in I Corinthians 7:10-11. In St. Matthew 24:16, Jesus Christ warned the remnant to flee into the mountains when the abomination of desolation filled the holy place. In I Kings 12:16 the cry of ten-tribed Israel was "*to your tents, O Israel.*" This decision to flee the jurisdiction of King Rehoboam was made in response to what these people considered unbearable tax burdens. The Israelites fled the jurisdiction of Egypt. The Pilgrims left England to escape the jurisdiction of that government. This step is taken when all else fails or when a people, tired and weary of repeated oppression, seek another place to live. Examples of this might be laws that ban home schooling, home birthing, and other vital areas considered sacred by the family.

Suffer for Not Doing Wrong

It may be necessary for you to suffer for not doing wrong. Persecution for Christ's sake is not new to Christians. All Christians are promised that they will suffer persecution for the name of Jesus Christ. A people who have never suffered persecution for what they believe may need to examine their position in Christ and His Word. You cannot submit in passive, blind obedience to a law that requires you to break God's Law. If all appeals, petitions, and anything else you can think of fail, prepare to suffer for not doing wrong. You may wish to carefully study the following examples in the Bible to see how Christians have suffered for not doing wrong.

The Hebrew midwives in Exodus 2 refused to obey the order to kill the male children of the Israelites. They were protected and apparently blessed for refusing to obey the unrighteous command of an ungodly ruler. The midwives knew where to draw the line. You must always be able to defend your stand from Scripture, not human reason.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all were willing to be cast into the fiery furnace and suffer rather than obey the unscriptural command of a civil ruler. Yahweh delivered these people from certain death and

blessed them in their stand for Godliness (*Daniel 3*). Can you use the Bible to defend your position? If you cannot, you had better submit and come out of rebellion. The Prophet Daniel affords an excellent example of how a Godly man sought to suffer wrong rather than obey the unscriptural command of a wicked king. Daniel was delivered from the Lion's mouth and was blessed in his refusal to cease praying. Yahweh honored his stand. When you draw your lines, be certain that your position is defendable from Scripture. Again, if you cannot defend your position with Scripture, you may need to repent for being rebellious.

The early Apostles in Acts 4 and 5 afford examples of how Christians ought to obey God rather than submit to commands that violate God and His Word. The Apostles were willing to suffer persecution, including arrest and imprisonment, for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They had drawn their lines of resistance on solid Bible footing. In so doing, they were blessed by their desire to obey God rather than man.

Protest and Petition

God and Scripture do not require Christians to turn the other cheek in a time of sin! We must petition and protest sin in government, the family, and the church. Christians can do many things to oppose sin and wickedness: remember that in all cases, these protests and petitions are peaceful, non-violent. We must seek to be vigilant Christians. We must never become vigilantes and work outside the law to try and bring summary judgment and punishment to those we oppose. In America we are fortunate to have the redress of recall, referendum, and initiative to work against sin and wickedness at any level of government.

Citizens can organize to remove bad authorities through the power of recall. Citizens can submit a bad law already in effect to the vote of the people by right of referendum. Citizens also can introduce a matter for legislation either to the legislature or directly to the voters through the initiative. We must stand up and be counted on the side of good government! In I Samuel 8:9, Samuel was told to protest solemnly unto the people. God and Scripture expect Christians to protest wickedness in government. The American War for Independence was a lawful outgrowth of protest, petition, and appeal against an unrighteous authority. The American War of Independence was not a revolution. The French Revolution of 1789 was in stark contrast to the American War for Independence. All of the members of the First and Second Continental Congress, together with the signers of the Declaration of Independence

(July 2-4, 1776), were elected delegates from the various Colonial legislatures. There were no autonomous sovereign citizens acting independently of the lawful established governments in the War for American Independence. Citizens who want reform and change in government must work within the lawfully instituted levels of government. You may wish to send for the booklet titled "*The Birthing of America*," available at the Missionary and Literature Room of the Church of Israel, for further clarification on the American War for Independence. You may also wish to send for the booklet titled "*Can There Be Vigilantes in Christendom?*," also available in the Missionary and Literature Room here. Both of these are worthy of your time and effort.

If protest and petition attempts fail after carefully executed plans are formulated, it may serve to warn you that the general populace is reaching the point of no return. Well-organized citizens operating at the grassroots level could have powerful influence on evil authorities, bad laws, and unrighteous decrees. In America, the people could employ the use of recall, referendum, and initiative, and end abortion, sodomy, miscegenation, fornication, and other crimes now condoned in this land. Could it be that sin in government exists because politics are the administration of the religious tenets of the people? Of course! Perhaps we have come to the point of Jeremiah 5:32: "*The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?*"

PRUDENCE IN A DAY OF EVIL

Christian citizens living in this generation will want to live focused upon Jesus Christ and His Kingdom (*Matthew 6:33*).

Firstly, let us establish some basic Christian, Biblical, and philosophical ground rules for this generation built from many years of Bible reading, prayer, and evaluation of our time in history. These do not claim to be perfect, but are offered with strong spiritual, emotional, and Biblical support.

1) We are living in the closing days of history insofar as human government is concerned. We are not coming to the end of time, but to the end of human rule. A new and glorious age will break upon this planet when Jesus Christ returns in power and glory to rule and reign with His elect on this earth. We must live in expectation and anticipation of this glorious event.

2) The political, social, economic, moral, and spiritual conditions of this planet will grow increasingly worse as we approach the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Expect no improvement in our quality of life until Christ returns. As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be as we approach the end of human rulership (*Luke 17*). Unless Jesus Christ returns to this planet, there shall be no flesh saved (*Matthew 24:22*). For the elect's sake, these days shall be shortened. No man or company of men can save us.

3) There will be an ever-increasing struggle to build a one world political, economic, and religious order. That counterfeit kingdom of men will be built on human reason, will worship heathen gods, and will be enforced and defended with brute police power. The governments, economies, and religions of all nations will be merged into this New World Order that will wage war against Jesus Christ, His Church, and His truth. No one will buy or sell unless they worship this beast power and take the name, number, and mark of his rulership. Living in such a time of history, Christian citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Republic of the United States of America must walk prudently. The following Scriptures give clear direction for those with spiritual eyes to see and ears to hear. Amos 5:13-15 says, "*Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so Yahweh, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that Yahweh God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*"

Amos gives these clear directives: Guard your words in this day of evil. Do not be a loud mouth. Seek to do good, not evil. Hate evil and love that which is good. Exercise good judgment in your personal life, family, and community.

Hosea 14:9 gives a good word for the prudent in this generation: "*Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of Yahweh are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.*" This instruction is direct and to the point. The ways of Yahweh are good and right, and the wise shall walk in the ways of Yahweh. Those who fail to live by the Law Word of Yahweh will perish. The elect must learn to maximize obedience to the Commandments of Yahweh. Avoid all people (including Christians) who minimize and compromise Divine Law.

Isaiah 26:20-21 makes a powerful point for Christian citizens in our time of history: *“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, Yahweh cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”* Christians must prepare for a time of great judgment. Separate from the wicked, associate with those of like mind, faith, and race, and prepare for the coming judgment of planet earth. The earth will be baptized with fire, and the rapture of the wicked will take place. The wicked will perish in this day of judgment.

Jeremiah 29:5-7 has a powerful message for the Christian citizens of this generation. Read these words and build your life vision: Here is a valid life vision for you to follow in our time of history. Build houses: this calls for you to focus your life upon building the Christian family. Plant gardens: this calls for self-sufficiency. Do not depend on the corner super-market. Grow your own food. Guide your children in the selection of Godly mates. Encourage them to bring forth many sons and daughters so you may be increased and not diminished in this day of evil. Finally, seek the peace of the community, city, county, state, and nation where you live. Pray for your civil rulers and seek to live a Godly life. Here is a battle plan for your life. Take up this vision and go for it.

Malachi 3:16,17 speaks to the prudent of our generation: *“Then they that feared Yahweh spake often one to another: and Yahweh hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared Yahweh, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith Yahweh of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”* Here are powerful words of instruction. We are to have fellowship with other Christians. We are to fear Yahweh, think upon His name, and keep His commandments.

The forgoing Scriptures are all found in the Old Testament. The New Covenant also affords excellent wisdom for the prudent in our generation. The instruction of Matthew 25:35-40 calls for the Christian citizen to visit the sick, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison. Mark 13:34 calls us to exercise Christian dominion in the name of Jesus Christ. Luke 21:8 warns the elect not to be deceived. John 5:24 is a call to believe on Jesus Christ, to pass from death unto life, and to live forever. All four of the Gospels call us to build our lives upon Jesus Christ and His Word.

We are to build our security on that which does not change and cannot be taken from us. Jesus Christ is that Rock that is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

The Apostolic fathers of the first century provide profound instruction for our generation. The prudent will give heed to their words, for they speak clearly to our time in history. Peter gave this word of prudence: *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless”* (II Peter 3:11-14).

Paul gave this instruction for our generation: *“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober”* (I Thess. 5:1-6). Note that we are hearing “peace and safety” in our generation on a scale never known in recorded history. This phrase appears in the United Nations charter many times.

James left this word of wisdom for the elect: *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”* (James 5:7-8). Patience is a Christian virtue that we must practice. It may be defined as putting up with a difficult situation and trusting God to handle it without any deadlines.

John gives us excellent instruction on our relationship with the world. *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”* (I John 2:15-17). Christians are to be in the world, but not of the world. It is true that we must live in the world and exercise Christian dominion. This does not mean that we live by the world’s standards.

Christians are not of this world and should not live by the rules that the world does.

Finally, the prudent in this generation will carefully consider the following specific areas, each of which is important in the unfolding days of the 20th century.

Worship: fellowship with those of like mind, faith, and race in a Christ centered, Bible believing church.

Bible: read, study, and memorize from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible.

Altar: every home should have a place where the family altar is known by all members of the family. On this altar there should be a Holy Bible and perhaps other symbols of the Christian faith.

Sabbath: the Holy Sabbath should become central to the lives of all Christian citizens. Keeping the Sabbath day holy and learning to delight in the Sabbath will bring great spiritual peace and victory to your life.

Health: live by the dietary laws of the Bible, eat lots of fruit and vegetables, poultry and fish, and lean beef. Avoid as much fat in your diet as possible. Avoid all alcohol. Use no tobacco or any other drugs. Use a good vitamin/mineral program for good health, and by all means, keep in good adjustment with the HIO Palmer method!

Finance: work to get out of debt and purpose to remain debt free. Live without credit cards and purpose to buy nothing on credit. Owe no man anything. Be frugal. Whenever possible, purchase good used cars, clothing, etc. Avoid buying high priced new cars. Buy good quality tools and take care of them as if they have to last forever. Hold your wealth in land, homes, livestock, tools, silver, and gold. Do not over concentrate on the silver or gold. If you do, it may own you.

The days ahead will be mean, lean, and very difficult. Do not think like the rest of the world. Live your life by Biblical standards. Do not run with the multitude. One with God is always a majority. Gather your family. Bring the scattered family together into a rural or semi-rural area and rebuild it. Try and settle all families on their own piece of property within possible walking distance of one another. Worship together, fellowship together, pray for one another, and aid and assist one another

in the difficult times ahead. Live by the rule of Philippians 2:15: *“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”* Christian citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven know that all the earth is a battle ground in this present world. We are engaged in spiritual warfare every day that we live. The primary focus of every Christian is to stand in the Kingdom of Light, live by the Laws of the Kingdom of Light, and reign with Jesus Christ both in this world and the world that is to come. Our walk on this earth will not be strewn with roses. Straight is the gate and narrow is the way that will lead to the eternal Kingdom of God. Every Christian must undergo three baptisms in this life: the baptism of water, the Holy Spirit, and fire. The fire will test every one of us and bring forth the gold tried in the furnace of life’s afflictions. We expect tribulation, not the rapture. While millions may be paid up, prayed up, and ready to go up, the Bible does not support a rapture of the elect from the earth. The Word of God declares that Christians in every age, including the last days, will undergo great tribulation. We welcome this tribulation because deliverance will come in tribulation, not out of it.

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

Those who build a life vision in Jesus Christ have a security that no one can take from them. There will be a time of increased tribulation as we approach the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and yes, the Church will be saved in tribulation and not out of it. There will be a public rapture of the wicked at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and yes, Christians are not to roll over and play dead. They have been told by their King, Jesus Christ, to *“occupy till He comes”* (Luke 19:13). Let us not waste one day in idleness. Number your days and apply your hearts unto wisdom. Whatever you are going to do, do it quickly! Time is now a limited resource. Treat it as a treasure.

A FINAL WORD ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

Reflections on the Two United States

A discussion of Christian citizenship would not be complete without briefly mentioning how “citizenship” may apply to a Christian at any given time in history. Please notice that Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, used the question of citizenship very skillfully in his defense at various and sundry times. There may be some application of this principle for Christians living in America and other Israelite nations in the end time of history. A brief excursion into St. Paul’s life will be helpful in order to accentuate the importance of “citizenship.”

In Acts 16:19-20, Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten, placed in stocks, and cast into prison. Later, when the magistrates sent sergeants to release these men, Paul made this interesting declaration: *“But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city”* (Acts 16). Paul made a major issue of the fact that he was a Roman and uncondemned. At issue here was this man’s citizenship. This may be important for the prudent to know.

Consider Acts 22 where Paul is making a defense against a life threatening action that has been falsely brought against him. As the authorities prepare to scourge him, he makes this defense: *“The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? When the centurion heard that, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born. Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.”*

Notice that Paul’s defense on the issue of citizenship and lawful jurisdiction was sufficient grounds for his speedy release. This may be

important in our time of history because there may be more than one kind of citizenship in America. When the Federal Constitution was written in 1787, ratified in 1789, and made the law of the land, it contained a provision in Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 whereby another nation was created within the three branch Republic established by the founding fathers under the remainder of the Constitution. This particular clause in the U.S. Constitution provides for Congress, the Legislative Branch of the Republic, to have exclusive rule over a body of citizens known as the residents of the district of Columbia. Any time that you have a governing body with exclusive rule over a body of people, you have a nation. This second nation is in deed a one branch government because Congress, the Legislative one-third of the Republic, has one hundred percent control of this nation created within the larger nation, and both nations, that is the Constitutional Republic of the original thirteen states and the Legislative Democracy are called by the same name, the United States.

The Legislative Democracy created in Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 was given authority to establish Article I Courts, make laws, and enforce those laws with police power. This, in fact, placed Congress in the role of the king because all three branches are combined within this Legislative Democracy which operates within the ten square mile area known as the District of Columbia, but exerts control over most of the rest of the nation and millions of its people. The Congress of the United States presides over both the Legislative Democracy and the Constitutional Republic. Congress writes laws for both the Legislative Democracy (Federal United States) and the Constitutional Republic. Congress has the power to write and enforce laws for both the Legislative Democracy and the Constitutional Republic.

A citizen of the Constitutional Republic may not always be a citizen of the Legislative Democracy of the District of Columbia and thereby under that particular jurisdiction. St. Paul made his defense in favor of Roman citizenship as opposed to the status he was accorded under the government in Judea. This truth may have application to a person living in America who may be a citizen of the Constitutional Republic but not of the Legislative Democracy (Federal United States) in the District of Columbia. Several points are of interest here, and those considering this issue of citizenship will want to underscore them.

Firstly, Paul made no big issue of the question of citizenship until he was unlawfully arrested. Secondly, he did not write any epistle on this subject, giving strong impetus to the fact that he did not consider it to be

a major issue of life to the Christians then living throughout the Roman Empire. Thirdly, Paul did not major on this theme in his personal life. We thereby conclude that by the example of St. Paul the issue of citizenship should be treated much as he dealt with it. Firstly, Paul was well informed of his status as a Roman Citizen and did not hesitate to use this issue of jurisdiction as a real point in his defense against unlawful arrest and imprisonment.

Secondly, Paul did at critical times in his life use the issue of "status," and for Christians who may have this potential defense, it seems reasonable to use when pressed as Paul was. Christians living in America may, in much the same manner as Paul, claim non-resident alien status with respect to the Legislative Democracy and lay claim to their citizenship under the original Constitutional Republic.

Finally, knowing that the great Creator of heaven and earth is sovereign over all of life, let us not think that Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 made it into the U.S. Constitution in 1787-1789 without His notice. Why did the Sovereign God of heaven and earth allow this provision to be written into the U.S. Constitution? Did the Governor of all Nations, not know that in the day His people departed from His covenant Law, He would allow a new master, a monster government, to swallow the liberties of the people enjoyed under the Republic of the Constitution? Are the deficiencies of the Constitution there by the compromises, blind spots, and intents of the founding fathers, or did a wise and all sovereign God purposely guide their hand in including them? You be the judge! Let every man examine himself, confess his sin, restore himself and his family under righteousness, and when the fruit is showing from this new life, let him stand strong, tall, and brave on the issue of citizenship under the Constitutional Republic as ratified in 1789.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS

The following booklets are available from the Missionary and Literature Room of the Church of Israel. You are encouraged to explore these for greater understanding of the complex issues of Christian citizenship.

Christian Conscience Toward Government: this will challenge your thinking about government and should be on your bookshelf.

Romans 13, A Primer on Government: this booklet will advance the Biblical position on Romans 13. This may assault your human reason, but it will be good for your soul.

Rebellion or Repentance: this booklet calls for repentance as the Godly means of finding our way out of the complex problems of this generation. Again, it challenges your human reason and encourages you to find the answers in the Bible.

The Birthing of America: this booklet enables you to confirm that the American War for Independence was not a revolution, was not an act of rebellion, but a Godly means of establishing a government for the Thirteen Colonies abandoned by the King of England.

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